UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/945
S/1997/559
18 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 56
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 10 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the situation in Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 56, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 10 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The European Union (EU) continues to be profoundly concerned by the crisis in Republika Srpska. It is characterized by machinations in outright opposition to the development of a normal democratic life and by unacceptable measures of intimidation and harassment. It is impeding the continuation of the implementation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is therefore imperative for the international community to react to this situation.

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the High Representative.

The European Union stresses the need to achieve a rapid solution to the political deadlock and to ensure respect for the office of the President of Republika Srpska, whose decision to dissolve the Republika Srpska Parliamentary Assembly was held to be in accordance with the Constitution by EU. The Union calls upon all parties to work towards a political solution in a peaceful manner and through dialogue.

EU calls upon the police to stop their measures of intimidation. Moreover, it is essential that all provisions dealing with the police, particularly the need to reorganize, reform and certify the police forces, be adopted. The approach of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) with regard to checkpoints should be continued. There should be full cooperation with the Deputy High Representative for Brčko and with IPTF.

The European Union expects the media in the Republika Srpska to contribute towards reducing the crisis. It is imperative that they comply with their duty of objectivity, contrary to what has been the case up to now, and provide public opinion with an account of events taken as a whole and without distortions likely to favour certain currents of opinion.

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as co-signatories to the peace agreements, must also face up to their responsibilities and act with a view to achieving a political, democratic and peaceful solution to the crisis which the Republika Srpska is currently undergoing.

The European Union asks the parties once again to comply fully with the undertakings entered into at Dayton and in particular their obligation to hand over to the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia those persons indicted for war crimes. In this regard, it considers the action undertaken by the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Prijedor to be perfectly legitimate. It is unacceptable that an influential figure indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal has failed to keep out of the political debate in the Republika Srpska, in breach of the undertakings made on 18 July 1996. As a person indicted by the International Tribunal, Mr. Karadžić's place is in The Hague.

The European Union recalls that a stable Republika Srpska, which cooperates in the implementation of the peace process, will benefit substantially from the material aid which EU is making available for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.